

REMARKS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing as indicated. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 9-29 have been withdrawn.

Drawings

Please confirm that the formal drawings filed on October 24, 2006 were accepted.

§102

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,908,423 to Kashuba et al. ("Kashuba"). Independent claim 1 has been amended to state that the reamer includes "a rigid second component" (emphasis added). Kashuba does not disclose such a feature. Kashuba is directed to a reaming system that includes a flexible shaft 12 and a first reamer 14 and a second reamer 22. Abstract. The purpose of Kashuba is to have a flexible shaft that is capable of bending so as to ream a curved shape. Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claim 1 and its dependents are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections to the claims have been overcome and that all remaining claims, namely claims 1-3 and 5-8 are currently in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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